

Workshop for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Stimulus Funding for Wastewater Improvement Projects

In order to comply with federal reporting requirements of ARRA and to ensure that all projects are executed in a timely and accurate manner, LDEQ is offering a workshop in 4 locations around the state. As a recipient of LDEQ Stimulus Funds under ARRA, a representative from your municipality and your consultant engineer are **REQUIRED** to attend one of the workshops. Topics to be discussed at these workshops will be reporting requirements, requisitioning, and loan-closing procedures.

CROWLEY – Tuesday, September 22 from 10 am – 11:30 amWells Fargo Building, Corner of Parkerson and First Street

**BATON ROUGE** –Thursday, September 24 from 10 am – 11:30 am DEQ Headquarters, Galvez Building, Pensacola Room, 602 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**NATCHITOCHES** – Tuesday, September 29 from 1pm – 2:30 pm Natchitoches Arts Center, 716 Second Street

**WEST MONROE** – Wednesday, September 30 from 9:30 am – 11am West Monroe Town Hall, 2305 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street

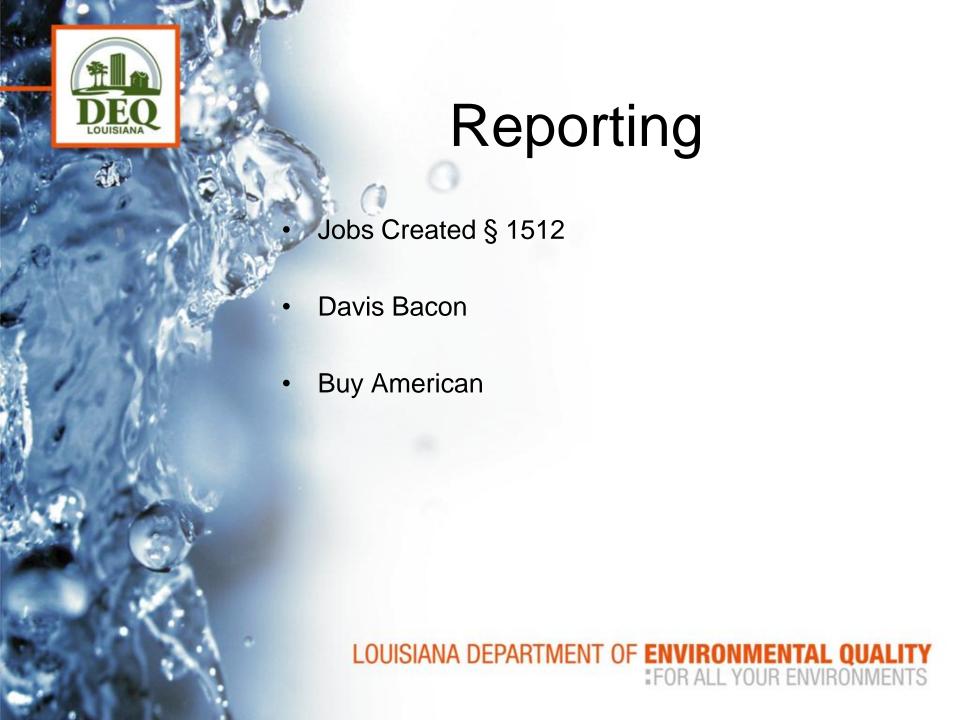
RSVP your preferred meeting by Wednesday, September 16, 2009. Contact Diane Snyder by phone at 225-219-3863 or by e-mail at Diane.Snyder@la.gov.





# Welcome and Introductions

- Bijan Sharafkhani (Bijan.Sharafkhani@la.gov)
- Jonathan McFarland (Jonathan.McFarland@la.gov)
- Tom Griggs (Tom.Griggs@la.gov)
- Karyn Andrews (Karyn.Andrews@la.gov)
- Diane Snyder (Diane.Snyder@la.gov)
- Steven Sommers (Steven.Sommers@la.gov)



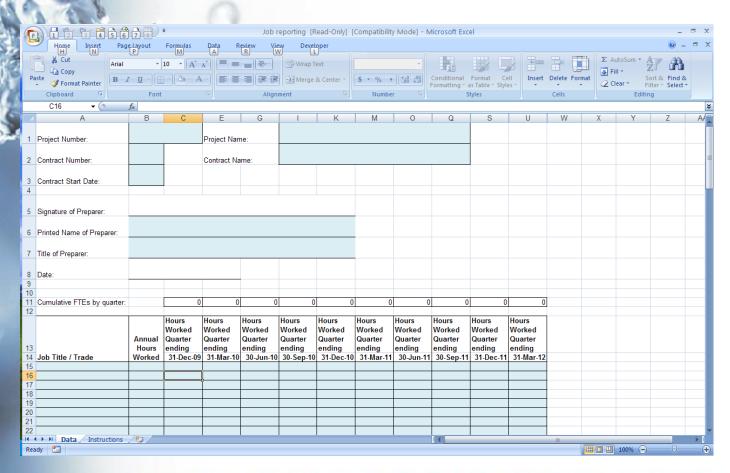


- No later than 5 days after the end of each calendar quarter, each recipient that received ARRA funds, must submit a "Job Reporting" spreadsheet that indicates the following:
  - Project Number
  - Project Name
  - Contract Number
  - Contract Name
  - Contract Start Date
  - List of Job Titles / Trades
  - Quarterly Hours Worked



- of the types of jobs created, then a brief description of the types of jobs created and a narrative description of the employment impact resulting using ARRA funds must be provided.
- For your convenience, DEQ has developed a template that can be found at <a href="http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2988/Default.aspx">http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2988/Default.aspx</a> or by contacting DEQ staff members.





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#### Definitions

- Jobs Created
  - A new position created and filled.
  - An existing unfilled position that is filled.
  - A position as a result of the Recovery Act.
- Jobs Retained
  - An existing position that would not have continued to be filled if not for the Recovery Act.



- Calculating Jobs Created / Retained
  - Number of jobs should be expressed in terms of "Full-Time Equivalents" (FTE's).
    - Number of FTE's = <u>Total hours worked in jobs created / retained</u>
       Number of hours in a full-time schedule
  - Based on the contractor / sub-contractor's normal definition of full-time.
  - A traditional 40 hour per week full-time schedule assumes:
    - 2,080 work hours per year
    - 520 work hours per quarter



- FTE estimates must be reported cumulatively each calendar quarter for the project lifecycle.
- Jobs that count vs. those that don't in calculating FTE's:
  - Jobs that count:
    - Crane operator constructing the project
    - Equipment manager maintaining equipment used for the project
    - Engineer and architect designing the project
    - Project manager supervising the project
    - Inspectors reviewing the project
  - Jobs that don't count:
    - Worker manufacturing steel for the project
    - Salesman selling construction equipment
    - Attorney preparing contract language
    - Restaurant worker selling lunch
    - Clerical staff preparing reports



- Laborers and mechanics working on ARRA funded projects shall be paid at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of character similar in the locality.
- Applies to the entire project if any portion receives ARRA funding.
- Department of Labor (DOL) establishes prevailing wages for different work functions.
  - Current wage rates can be found on http://www.wdol.gov/dba.aspx#0
- If a wage rate is not available, assistance recipient must request a wage determination.
  - State submits a Standard Form 308 to DOL
  - DOL takes at least 30 days to process wage determination requests.

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- Wage determinations must be obtained prior to bid opening.
  - States must check the Davis-Bacon wage rates, compare it to their own prevailing wage laws and use the higher wage rates.
- Louisiana does not have a state prevailing wage law, therefore the Davis-Bacon wage rates will apply.
- Davis-Bacon information must be reported by contractors and subcontractors using weekly certified payroll records.
  - Statement of compliance with Davis-Bacon must also be signed and submitted by the contractor or subcontractor with the weekly payroll records.



- Payroll records should be reported to the municipality and kept with ARRA documentation. These records will be reviewed during on-site inspections.
- Each municipality must periodically interview a sufficient number of employees entitled to Davis-Bacon wages to verify that contractors or subcontractors are paying the appropriate wage rates.
  - Interviews must be conducted in confidence.
  - Standard Form 1445 or equivalent documentation must be used during the interviews.



#### Davis-Bacon Interviews

- A minimum of two interviews must take place.
- Interviews must be conducted within two weeks of each contractor or subcontractor's submission of initial payroll data and two weeks before the estimated completion date of the contract.

#### Davis-Bacon Posters

- Contractors, subcontractors and vendors must display the Davis-Bacon wage rate posters at all job sites.
- Posters being displayed will be checked during on-site inspections.



## Buy American

 Must solicit bids for construction with American made iron, steel and manufactured goods.

Buy American applies only to contracts funded with ARRA funds

Auditable information must be collected from the prime contractors, subcontractors, vendor and suppliers and sent to DEQ. Payment requests will only be fulfilled when this information is obtained by DEQ.



## Buy American

Examples of auditable information may include:

- Invoices
- Bill of lading
- Shipping manifests
- Country of origin marking and labeling
- Cut sheets
- Photographs of serial numbers
- Certifications



# Auditing and Inspection

Office of Inspector General (OIG) is charged with governance over EPA, states and assistance recipients on how the ARRA funds are being used.

ARRA documents and information should be kept for at least 3 years, in the event of an OIG audit.



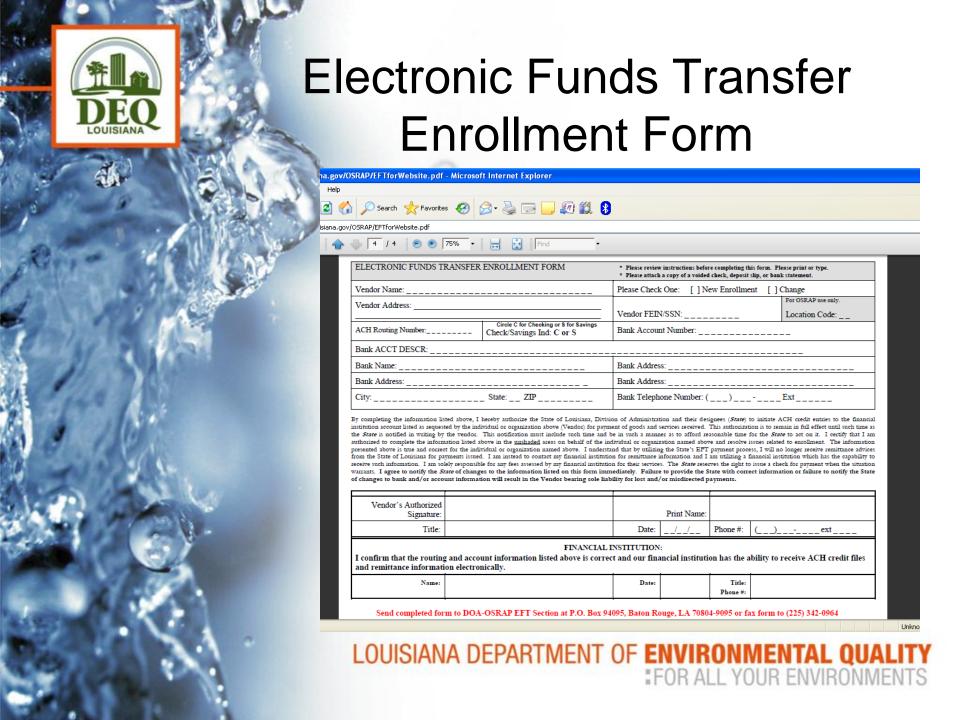




## Payment Requisitions

- Submit request Form RF-105 with proper signatures along with two complete sets of supporting documents (invoices, etc.).
- Submit coversheet/breakdown of expenses per line item (see sample)
- In the case of multiple construction contracts, a second requisition form (Form RF-105) is required.

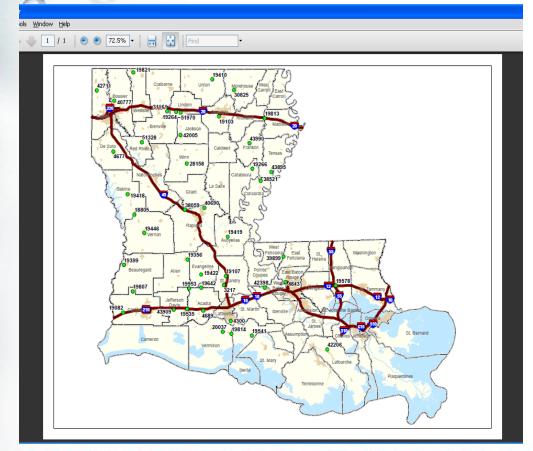








Locations of ARRA Communities







## **DEQ Contacts**

- DEQ Payment Analyst
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- Loan Contacts
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